CRET

OGC 65- 2779

13 SEP 19

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Montagnards in Vietnam
             Meeting at State Department, 13 September 1965

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. William Bundy, Mr. Unger, Mr. Robert Miller,
              Mr. Colby, Mr. David Smith

1. Following the press stories on September 13th in the New York Times and Washington Post, Mr. Unger requested our assistance in preparing a review of this situation for the Secretary of State by noon. We concurred with the attached memorandum to the Secretary, and specifically recommended the addition of the final two paragraphs referring to CIA. These were phrased rather carefully to leave open the prospect of inquiry into the specific charges in the articles.

2. When I cleared this memorandum, I was not aware of the recent 303 Committee decision to control admissions of CIA covert action activity, which might be construed as effected in the final paragraphs of the attached memorandum. Per Mr. FitzGerald's instruction, I noted this to Mr. William Bundy on the phone. Mr. Bundy said that he was aware of the rule but that he thought that this instruction would not transgress it, and that in any case the Secretary of State was the moving power behind the new arrangement and would be the spokesman for the attached statement.

3. A full review of the matter is being made by FE ☐ in consultation with the Station. We are quite confident that there is no substantial basis for a charge that CIA acted unilaterally on this question, but we recommend avoiding any denials, as certain specific instances might be true but have justifiable explanations.
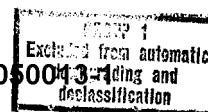
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/s/ William E. Colby

William E. Colby
Chief, Far East Division

Attachment

cc: DDCI

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